

COURSE SYLLABUS



CONTEXTUAL AND CULTURAL REFERENCING

IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

Suggested US semester credit hours: 4 credits

Contact hours: 60

Course level: 200

IFSA-Butler course code: CME280-12

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this module is to encourage an understanding of the social, psychological, cultural, historical and commercial factors which underpin all visual arts theory and practice across the spectrum of subject specialism. This module develops students' knowledge of the cultural history and social theory which informs current thought and debate across the visual arts. Also, presentation skills will be applied in a practical context. Notebooks and visual diaries should indicate that students understand and develop information received from lectures and seminars. Oral presentations and illustrated assignments should form part of students' practical work and can be linked to practical courses.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Be able to undertake in-depth research
- Understand influences on art and design activities and outcomes through the interpretation and analysis of information
- Be able to assess, interpret and evaluate information
- Understand the connection between availability of resources and network performance
- Be able to evaluate and present conclusions
- Strengthen critical thinking skills
- Become familiar with resources available for further research on contextual and cultural referencing
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

COURSE DELIVERY

Students are expected to read or view resources in advance and be prepared to actively discuss them in class. In each meeting, the instructor will overview the topic and then facilitate a group discussion, drawing out relevant themes, following up on specific lines of inquiry, and prompting students' thoughtful engagement with the topic. Students are encouraged to bring their prior learning experiences into class discussions and to make cognitive connections between this course and others in the IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague whenever possible. Theories of experiential learning and integrative learning therefore undergird the dynamic learning environment of this course.

This course utilizes an interactive approach to teaching that focuses on the individual student's needs. This approach to teaching and learning aims to foster a challenging but caring environment that allows students to explore, create, and test themselves and their ideas in a safe place.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Content Delivery
1 - 11	Introduction and practice of cultural and contextual referencing: What do cultural and contextual referencing mean? This is a way to study art and the connection between artworks and the world. We will explore the theories put forth by art historians, critics, and visual culture theorists, examine these theories closely, and form ideas about how the meanings of artworks are connected to the many varied overlapping contexts surrounding art. We will discuss and write about artworks using <i>art criticism</i> . Weekly content corresponds to Assignment One blog entries.
9-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six research sources due - Essay Outline - Intro to citing and referencing - Reference list, bibliography and list of images - Written Thesis completed <p>Assignment: Visual Journal of Contextual and Cultural Referencing in Art and Design (Blog)</p>
14 - 15	<p>Presentations and final feedback</p> <p>Assignment: Analysis of Contemporary Artwork: Thesis and Presentation</p>

EVALUATION METHODS

The course instructor will determine specific assignments (including paper topics), projects, and exams for the course. Your work on individual assignments and projects will be guided by grading rubrics provided by the course instructor. Your final grade in the course will be arrived at through assessment methods determined by the course instructor and according to the percentages attached to each assignment and exam by the course instructor. Participation will constitute a determined percentage of your grade. Participation includes attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect.

Assignment Number	Type of Assignment	Description and Areas Assessed
1	Visual Journal of Contextual and Cultural Referencing in Art and Design (Blog)	Material covered during weeks 1-11
2	Analysis of Contemporary Artwork: Thesis and Presentation	Material covered during weeks 1-14 (week 15 reserved for presentations)

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

READING LIST

Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida*, New York: Hill & Wang, 1981.

Terry Barrett, *Interpreting Art : Reflecting, Wondering, and Responding*, McGraw-Hill Education, 2002.

Marita Sturken & Lisa Cartwright, *Practice of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Jessica Evans, Stuart Hall (eds.), *Visual Culture: The Reader*, SAGE, 1999.

Nicholas Mirzoeff, *An Introduction to Visual Culture* (2nd ed.), New York and London: Routledge, 2009.

Gillian Rose, *Visual Methodologies* (4th ed.), SAGE, 2016.

Kazys Varnelis, "The Meaning of Network Culture", in *Networked Publics*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.